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State Home Fugitive Swims Torrent

GRASS VALLEY, April 2.—(AP)—When Helen Hooker ran away from the Sonoma State Home with two other girls and was seen to disappear in the turbulent flood waters of Sonoma Creek last Sunday, home officials believed she had drowned.

One of her companions in the break for freedom, Pauline McClung, 14, of San Jose, drowned, and the Home attendants recovered her body.

Miss Hooker, 22, whose home was in Grass Valley, after four hours in the water, reached shore safely. She said she spent most of those hours against a submerged tree trunk.

She appeared yesterday at the Grass Valley home of relatives and appeared to have suffered no ill effects.

Erma Parsons, 19, of Fresno, was retaken by Home attendants just as she was going into the flooded creek in an attempt to cross with the two other girls.

The Sonoma State Home at Eldridge is for mentally deficient and epileptic patients. Dr. F. O. Butler, Home superintendent, said the three runaways were classed as mentally deficient.

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